LPAP 143– Musical Theater Dance
T/R: 11:00am-12:05pm – Recreation Center, Dance Theater

Instructor: Heather Nabors
Spring 2014
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Office Hours: by appt only

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course focuses on the basic fundamentals of musical theater dance. Students will learn jazz steps/combinations that apply to musical theater. This course is designed to increase student's strength, coordination, musicality/phrasing and flexibility through various combinations and exercises. This course will teach students the basics of alignment, breathing, and moving efficiently. The class consists of warm-up, locomotor phrases/exercises, center and floor work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students will be expected to:
1. Grasp and retain class exercises and combinations.
2. Work on musicality and dynamics.
3. Complete movements and combinations in a clear and concise manner.
4. Increase personal strength, stamina, flexibility, and range of motion.
5. Go beyond execution of steps and perform. Apply your personality/self to movement.
6. Apply corrections given in class consistently.
7. Approach class with a positive and hardworking attitude. Be present in body and mind.
8. Work on ability to shift weight in a clean and precise manner.
9. Be ready and willing to improvise when asked.
10. Be confident in your own ability and execute class material to the best of your ability.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to actively participate while in attendance. During the course of the semester, **students are allowed two "free" absences.** Should a student miss an additional class (es) she/he will need to arrange to make up the missed class at a time and place that is agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate conversation with the instructor to discuss the make-up, and an agreement must be reached between the two within two weeks of the absence. **If a student fails to make up a missed third or fourth class, his/her final grade will drop by one or two grade letters, respectively**. Please note, students will not be allowed to make up more than two classes. **Five total absences, including those that were made up and no matter their circumstance, will result in a failing grade for the course**. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you are not dressed and ready to move when warm-up starts, you are tardy. 3 tardies will count as an absence. BE ON TIME!

EXAMS/CONCERT RESPONSES/GRADING:
Each student will be evaluated on an individual basis and graded accordingly. Grading will be based on improvement during the semester, participation/attitude, exams, and concert responses. Details are outlined below.
Participation/Attitude/Improvement/Growth (40%) Students will be evaluated on their personal growth during the semester. Students are expected to show improvement in all course objectives outlined in the syllabus. Students are expected to be attentive, prepared, respectful and appropriately dressed. A poor attitude will negatively affect your final grade. ****Please note: Dance is a physical activity. A student who is fully participating is moving energetically and focused/engaged in the material. A student who is expending little effort and not**

concentrating will not receive a positive participation grade and will not do well in the course. **All injuries or pre-existing conditions should be discussed with the instructor.**

Exams & Concert Responses (40% exams /20% responses) Students will have a mid-term and final movement exam. Students will learn several movement combinations and exercises prior to the exam period and will perform them on exam day. Students will also take a short written vocabulary exam on terms/steps learned in class. Classes will be videotaped on exam days. Students are required to attend **2** concerts during the semester. Student must attend the Rice Dance Theatre Concert (April 17-19). A written concert response must be submitted for the RDT concert. Students will complete a brief questionnaire for the 2nd concert that they attend. Please read the Concert Guidelines carefully!

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	**D+**	67-69
A-	90-92	**D**	63-66
B+	87-89	**D-**	60-62
B	83-86	**F**	59 - below
B-	80-82		
C+	77-79		
C	73-76		
C-	70-72		

GRADING RUBRIC GUIDELINES:

A = Outstanding Work of High Distinction

- Mastery of ideas and methods taught at a physical and intellectual level
- Timely preparation and submission of written class work
- Constructive classroom participation as appropriate to class and subject
- Exemplary work ethic
- Above normal attendance

B= Above Average Work of Honor Quality

- Understanding of ideas and methods taught at a physical and intellectual level
- Timely preparation and submission of written work
- Regular classroom participation as appropriate to class and subject
- Solid work ethic
- Regular attendance

C = Average Work

- Variable understanding of ideas and methods taught at a physical and intellectual level
- Sporadic preparation and submission of written work
- Some classroom participation as appropriate to class and subject
- Satisfactory work ethic
- Normal attendance

D = Below Average Work

- Little understanding of ideas and methods presented at a physical and intellectual level
- Unacceptable preparation and frequent missed submission of class work
- Rare classroom participation as appropriate to class and subject
- Poor work ethic
- Poor attendance

F = Unacceptable Work

- Little or no ideas and methods presented at a physical and intellectual level
- Poor applications in physical technique, practical work and solutions to problems/projects
- No discernible preparation and consistently missed submission of class work
- Rare classroom participation as appropriate to class and subject

CLASS ATTIRE/BEHAVIOR:
Students need to wear appropriate dance clothes (leotard, jazz pants/yoga pants) to all classes. Shoes need to be purchased by the end of the first week of classes. Students are not allowed to dance in socks. No hats, bare mid-drifts, booty shorts, jeans, skirts, chunky jewelry or excessively baggy clothes. Hair needs to be pulled off the face into a secure ponytail**.** Students who consistently come to class without proper attire, shoes and with hair unsecured will have their grade lowered. Be on time for class and ready to work. All cell phones need to be turned off before class. No excessive talking. Please ask questions when needed. You are encouraged to bring a water bottle to class.

HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS:
All students are expected to uphold their pledge to the Rice Honor Code. Any student suspected of cheating on an exam or written assignment will be reported to the Chair of the Honor Council, and an investigation will ensue. Any questions that you may have about what constitutes an honor code violation in this class can be directed to the instructor.

ADA STATEMENT:
This instructor, in conjunction with Rice University, is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center. Any information regarding your disability will remain confidential. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. Any requests for accommodations will be reviewed in a timely manner to determine their appropriateness to this setting

IMPORTANT DATES:
Thursday, February 20th – Mid-Term Quiz (Written)
Tuesday, February 25th– Mid-Term Exam (Movement)
Friday, February 28th – Last day to drop class
March 1-March 9 – Spring Break – No Classes
April 3-4 – Mid-Term Recess – No Classes
April 17th-19th (Thurs-Sat) – RDT Performance – REQUIRED (Tickets available online)
Tuesday, April 22nd – RDT Concert Response Due
Tuesday April 22nd– Final Exam (Written)
Thursday, April 24th – Final Exam (Movement), Last Day of Class